

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

19 May 1977

25X1 NOTE FOR: [redacted]

Jack -

The attached article provoked me to ask what guidance your DCD people have for discussing their activities with the press. Obviously, the authors of this piece were determined to make us look as bad as possible. Nevertheless, it does seem to me that if our people are going to say anything more than "no comment", they should be able to provide the same kind of information [redacted] that Hetu's office gives out here. What are the facts and what are your views?

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Attachment:
The Minneapolis Star article
dtd 28 April 1977

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Approved For Release 2005/05/24 : CIA-RDP80M01048A0100070060-9

Business of CIA

here is business

Shy agents avoid public notice, but one is seeking civic office

EDITOR'S NOTE: What is the CIA doing in Minneapolis? Where is its office? Who are the agents who work in the Twin Cities for the nation's most secret organization? The Minneapolis Star assigned reporters Patrick Marx and Randy Furst to find out. One agent, Bob Wallace, is running for the Citizens League board and the issues in his case are especially intriguing. An article on Wallace appears on Page 2A.

By PATRICK MARX
and RANDY FURST
Minneapolis Star Staff Writers

There's no name on the door.

Inside, there's a small reception room with a glass window at one end with a yellow curtain covering it.

When you enter the room, a woman behind the glass window pulls aside the curtain just enough to see who's there. On her desk is a large booklet with "SECRET" on it.

"What do you want?" she asks.

You tell her. She looks suspicious.

YOU'RE IN Federal Building Room 507 at Fort Snelling and it's supposed to be secret. Room 507 houses the local offices of the CIA. It is just down the hall from the offices of the Upper Mississippi River Basin Commission.

Paul Hendrickson, CIA regional director, claims the CIA office here is not involved in any covert activities. He says there are no cloak-and-dagger operations and no domestic surveillance of Twin Cities individuals.

The agency maintains its only function is to interview persons who live in the area who may have information about for-

traordinarily secretive about its operations and has gone to considerable length to hide its presence in the Twin Cities. Efforts by The Star to obtain the most rudimentary information about the CIA here proved difficult.

The only bit of public information given out by the CIA is its telephone number, which is listed—without an address—in the Minneapolis and St. Paul telephone directories.

The CIA will not say how many agents it has on the payroll here nor how large its office is. It refused a request by The Star to tour its offices.

THE STAR found the CIA office only after a number of phone calls, tailing a CIA agent and a floor-by-floor search of the Fort

Snelling federal office building.

It is the first time the present office has been publicly disclosed.

The CIA has its subscription to the Minneapolis Tribune sent to the Fort Snelling office building, addressed to the "P.R. Hendrickson Co." Paul R. Hendrickson is the regional director. There is no P.R. Hendrickson Co.

Hendrickson refused to meet with Star reporters until they confronted him as he was coming to work one morning. He spoke briefly with the reporters in the CIA's small lobby.

The identity of the CIA office is not even known by some General Services Administration (GSA) personnel who work in the Fort Snelling office building and are in charge of government supplies and equipment. Some GSA em-

ployees refer to the office as "the EOB"—the Executive Office Building of the president.

Hendrickson said the office location has not been made public by the CIA because it might lead to demonstrations outside the office and "nut visits."

"The last thing we want to receive in person are those who bring messages from outer space or those who have secret messages implanted in their teeth," he said.

LOCAL CIA officers refuse to discuss in any detail what they do here. They refer all questions about local activity to a public information officer at CIA headquarters in Langley, Va., who isn't very helpful either.

Much of what local offices do is shrouded in secrecy for fear that agents and the offices might be harmed, the CIA maintains.

However, The Star learned some things about the CIA during a two-week investigation.

In addition to Hendrickson, there are at least three other local CIA agents—Robert Wallace, John Webster and Thomas Sullivan.

Hendrickson, the CIA regional director, has been with the CIA since 1953, first as an economic analyst, then as a collection specialist. He is a thin man with glasses and was wearing a narrow-lapel suit when Star reporters met him in the hall. He lives in Edina.

Webster, a black, was in his office smoking a cigar when The Star visited the CIA offices a second time. After some coaxing, he came out to the lobby.

He said he was formerly with ~~Minneapolis~~ had been with the agency since August.

CONFIDENTIAL

Cities in 1971, two years before the CIA moved its offices to Fort Snelling. Sando is now stationed somewhere in the midwest, but the CIA won't say where.

About 125 persons a year are recruited as CIA employees from this region, which includes Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Wisconsin and a portion of Michigan, according to Clow, the former CIA recruiter.

THE CIA will not hire homosexuals because the agency believes they could be blackmailed, Clow said. A prohibition against marijuana users was dropped in the early 1970s because most of the people the CIA was interested in had at least experimented with drugs.

Clow said that a number of CIA employees have news media experience. He said the information-gathering skills of CIA agents and reporters are largely the same. He said a prominent person from the Twin Cities news media applied for a CIA job recently, but the man took a job promotion within his own organization instead.

Clow said he left the CIA in 1975 because he did not want to be transferred back to Washington.



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PAUL HENDRICKSON